The General Education Program

Mission

Rooted in the tradition of liberal arts education, FGCU’s General Education Program provides students with opportunities to cultivate the intellectual curiosity, knowledge, and skills necessary for academic success, engaged citizenship, and lifelong learning.

Purpose

FGCU’s General Education Program (GEP) orients students to college-level expectations and experiences, and helps them to attain:

- Knowledge in multiple disciplines

  *The GEP offers courses in communication, mathematics, the arts and humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences to acquaint students with an array of subject areas and disciplinary methods.*

- Intellectual and practical skills

  *The GEP emphasizes critical thinking, effective communication, and quantitative reasoning to develop students’ academic, career, and life skills.*

- Civic identity

  *The GEP challenges students to engage with diverse and interconnected social and natural worlds in ethical, responsible, and creative ways.*

The General Education Program incorporates a variety of high-impact educational practices, such as:

- An Entering-Year Experience (Eagle E.Y.E.)
- Writing-Intensive, Writing-Focused, and/or Writing-Enriched Courses
- Learning Communities
- Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
- Diversity and Global Learning
- Undergraduate Research
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
Competencies

Students in FGCU’s General Education Program obtain foundational knowledge in several subject areas, gain experience in multiple disciplinary approaches, and become proficient in the following:

**Written Communication**

- Employ the conventions of standard written English;
- Select a topic, and develop it for a specific audience and purpose, with respect for diverse perspectives;
- Organize and present relevant content with coherence, clarity, and unity;
- Develop research skills including the ability to collect, analyze, synthesize, and accurately present and document information;
- Use appropriate language to convey meaning effectively;
- Apply critical reading skills.

**Critical Thinking**

- Define an issue or problem using appropriate terminology;
- Select, organize, and evaluate information;
- Identify and analyze assumptions made by oneself and others;
- Synthesize information, and draw reasoned inferences;
- Develop and clearly state a position, taking into account all relevant points of view;
- Formulate an informed and logical conclusion, and test it for viability.

**Quantitative Reasoning**

- Solve mathematical problems;
- Analyze and interpret quantitative data;
- Summarize data into graphic and tabular formats;
- Make valid inferences from data;
- Distinguish between valid and invalid quantitative analysis and reasoning.

**Civic Identity**

- (TBD)